

As Nobel Laureates, we believe that the world community needs urgently to address the challenges of poverty and sustainable development. Responding to these challenges requires the political will that has been so sadly lacking.

The undertakings pledged by states at the UN Millennium Summit, the promises of increased development assistance, fair trade, market access and debt relief for developing countries, have not been implemented. Poverty continues to be the world's most widespread and dangerous scourge.

Millions of people become victims of hunger and disease, and entire nations suffer from feelings of frustration and despair. This creates fertile ground for extremism and terrorism. The stability and future of the entire human community are thus jeopardized.

Scientists are warning us that failure to solve the problems of water, energy and climate change will lead to a breakdown of order, more military conflicts and ultimately the destruction of the living systems upon which civilization depends. Therefore, we reaffirm our support for the Kyoto Protocol and the Earth Charter and endorse the rights-based approach to water, as reflected in the initiative of Green Cross International calling upon governments to negotiate a framework treaty on water.

As Nobel Peace Prize Laureates we believe that to benefit from humankind's new, unprecedented opportunities and to counter the dangers confronting us there is a need for better global governance. Therefore, we support strengthening and reforming the United Nations and its institutions.

As immediate specific tasks, we commit to work for:

—Genuine efforts to resolve the Middle East crisis. This is both a key to the problem of terrorism and a chance to avoid a dangerous clash of civilizations. A solution is possible if the right of all nations in the region to secure viable statehood is respected and if the Middle East is integrated in all global processes while respecting the unique culture of the peoples of that region.

—Preserving and strengthening the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. We reject double standards and emphasize the legal responsibility of nuclear weapons states to work to eliminate nuclear weapons. We call for continuation of the moratorium on nuclear testing pending entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and for accelerating the process of verifiable and irreversible nuclear arms reduction. We are gravely alarmed by the creation of new, usable nuclear weapons and call for rejection of doctrines that view nuclear weapons as legitimate means of war-fighting and threat pre-emption.

—Effectively realizing the initiative of the UN Secretary General to convene a high level conference in 2005 to give an impetus to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. We pledge to work to create an atmosphere of public accountability to help accomplish these vitally important tasks.

We believe that to solve the problems that challenge the world today politicians need to interact with an empowered civil society and strong mass movements. This is the way toward a globalization with a human face and a new international order that rejects brute force, respects ethnic, cultural and political diversity and affirms justice, compassion and human solidarity.

We, the Nobel Peace Laureates and Laureate organizations, pledge to work for the realization of these goals and are calling on governments and people everywhere to join us.

Mikhail Gorbachev, Kim Dae-Jung, Lech Walesa, Joseph Rotblat, Jose Ramos-Horta,

Betty Williams, Mairead Corrigan Maguire, Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo, Adolfo Perez Esquivel, and Rigoberta Menchu Tum; and, United Nations Children's Fund, Pugwash Conferences, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, International Peace Bureau, Institut de Droit International, American Friends Service Committee, Medecins sans Frontieres, Amnesty International, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, International Labour Organization, International Campaign to Ban Land Mines, Albert Schweitzer Institute, United Nations.

COMMERCIAL SPACE LAUNCH AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concerns with the bill before us, H.R. 5382, the Commercial Space Launch Amendments Act.

This bill establishes a regulatory mechanism for licensing commercial suborbital human spaceflight activities.

The space exploration research program has been one of the most successful research programs in the history of this country.

The rationale for human spaceflight is evolving due to a growing commercial motivation. Human spaceflight can profit from an increased synergy between the public and private sectors.

Space tourism can benefit immensely from the development of the necessary infrastructure, while public space programs can benefit from increased awareness and support for human spaceflight, generated by high-profile space tourism flights and a growing perception that space travel is closer to being within the grasp of ordinary citizens.

I supported this legislation when it was brought before the committee.

However, one of my primary concerns is the regulation of safety, since space travel is inherently dangerous. Under no circumstances should we allow the desire for profits to ever interfere with the responsibility of maintaining safety and proper oversight.

We can and should protect the safety of passengers on space flights.

Legislation of this magnitude should have the benefit of bipartisan input from the appropriate committees with jurisdiction.

Further negotiations would make this bill more palatable. I ask my colleagues to not act hastily in advancing this legislation.

HONORING PATRICIA FRANCES EATON

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 20, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself and Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton to honor the extraordinary life of Patricia Frances Eaton, a devoted teacher, advocate, humanitarian, and friend. Pat, who

spent her life traveling the world to support those in need, passed away on October 22, 2004 in Arlington, Virginia. She is survived by her son, David Howard Kuria Eaton, her brother, Harold Eaton, Jr., her god-sister, Jean Chin Tapscott, and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and loving friends.

Born on June 21, 1944 in Washington, D.C., Pat was the youngest of five children born to Harold and Ordee Scruggs Eaton. Following her studies at Palmer Memorial Institute and Howard University, Pat graduated from Texas Southern University with a B.A. in English in 1967. Upon her graduation, Pat became part of the first group of volunteers to travel to the newly independent southern Africa with the United States Peace Corps. Braving extreme weather conditions and relying on a horse as her only means of transportation, she lived in a Lesotho village for more than two years. During that time she grew to love the lands and people of the most remote regions of Africa, and her experience in the Peace Corps became the inspiration that she would draw upon in traveling through and working on behalf of Africa throughout the rest of her life.

Returning to the U.S. in 1970, Pat used her knowledge and experience to work as a volunteer to raise funds to start Africare, an organization dedicated to providing funds for water supply, health resources, and agricultural development in drought-stricken West Africa, or the Sahel. During this time, Pat worked as a teacher at McKinley High School, and also worked briefly for the D.C. government. She was later able to work full-time at Africare as its first Director of Communications and Chapter Development, a capacity in which she traveled across the country in order to identify and coordinate cities with development projects in the Sahel.

In the mid-1970s, Pat was recruited by the U.N. Development Program's newly established Women-In-Development project. Known for her expertise in working in rural and isolated villages in Africa, Pat was the ideal choice to work on this project, which sought to increase women's productivity through income-generating projects. Her background led also to later appointments as the Executive Director of the Black Women's Community Development Foundation, the Director for Africa of the Overseas Education Fund of the League of Women Voters, and various contract projects with USAID, the Peace Corps, and other groups. Pat's work in these areas led her to spend the better part of twenty years traveling through twenty-two African countries, often with few companions and little more than a single suitcase, but always with an eagerness for knowledge and full immersion within the culture of each group she encountered. Whether she was passing through the caves of Mali's Timbuktu, the pyramids of Egypt, or Zambia during the Rhodesian War and subsequent Lancaster conference, Pat lived as one with the African people whose lives she shared throughout her journey.

After returning to the United States in 1983 for the birth of her son, David, Pat took a position as the Director of West Africa for the D.C.-based African Development Foundation. In 1986, she made the decision to settle in the U.S., and began teaching English again, this time at Wilson Senior High. Later advancing to the position of Director of the school's International Studies Program, Pat drew upon the richness of her experiences abroad not only to